

# How we finished a project: *The Robert Graves Diary*

Janelle Jenstad  
Martin Holmes  
</endings>

JJ </e> MH



March 7<sup>th</sup> Thursday

Lama has influenza. Betty went back.

A very cold wind blowing.  $\pm$  down to 34-45 peaks

Went down to sea. Aphodids out.

The Focus January number isn't here yet: it was promised for Sat. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Made out a scheme for the court case of Antigua, but got the order of procedure wrong. No matter. Sebastian grafted 2 peaches, 12 almonds

Lama told me a dream. A hall of people being asked questions by a professor of psychology to show <sup>destructive</sup> his skill. He picked on Lama for the question, "What is the function of a bird?" <sup>(aggravated)</sup> She replied, "I do not consider <sup>fatally</sup> that a proper question. For it should be addressed to the bird itself. ~~And that~~ <sup>And that</sup> no answer <sup>can</sup> be expected from the bird does not justify your shifting the responsibility of answering from a being without consciousness, to a conscious being who has altogether different functions. Your question to such a being can only <sup>properly</sup> refer to observed action. <sup>in the other</sup> If you ask me, 'What does a bird do?' my answer would be 'fly!'"

The jurist letter and poem sent me by one Sidney Wilson of Ashley, Penn. filed it in Dictionary of Christian Biography under Lazarus - Leander.

# Graves's Diary (1935- 1939)



# A brief history

- Started 2003
- First serious digital edition project for HCMC
- Made every mistake imaginable



# Stupid mistakes we made

- Misunderstood TEI. Every diary month was a `teiCorpus` element.
- Made up our own XML when we couldn't easily make TEI work.
- Failed to analyse the data before starting, so had to scramble to handle e.g. enclosures/attachments.
- Added a MySQL database to make things yet more complicated.
- Based the web application on version 0.9 of a new piece of software (eXist), running inside Cocoon.



# But it worked!

## Diary of Robert Graves 1935-39 and ancillary material

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[New Search](#) [Diary Scans](#)

### March 1935

[« February](#) [« Abstract »](#) [April »](#)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

#### DISPLAYED DIARY SCAN(S)



March 7th Thursday  
[» Annotated markup](#)  
[» Full-sized Image](#)  
[» Gallery Scan](#)

### March 7<sup>th</sup> Thursday

**Laura** has influenza. **Betty** went back. A very cold wind blowing. £ down to 34.45 pesetas. Went down to sea. Asphodels out. The **Focus** January number isn't here yet: it was promised for Sat.24th.

Made out a scheme for the court case of **Antigua**, but got the order of procedure wrong. No matter. **Sebastian** grafted 2 peaches on 2 almonds.

**Laura** told me a dream. A hall of people being asked questions by a professor of psychology to show his **deductive**[RG] skill. He picked on **Laura** for the question, "What is the function of a bird?" She replied **aggressively**[RG], "I do not consider that a proper question; it should be addressed **if at all**,[RG] to the bird itself, ~~but since~~ **And that**[RG] no answer ~~could~~ **can**[RG] be expected from the bird does not justify your shifting the responsibility for answering from a being without consciousness, to a conscious being who has altogether different functions. Your question to such a being can only **properly**[RG] refer to observed action **in the other**[RG]. **If therefore**[RG] you ask me 'what does a bird do?' my answer would be 'fly!'"

The funniest letter and poem sent me by one Sidney Wilson <sup>1</sup> of Ashley, Penn. Filed it in Dictionary of Christian Biography<sup>2</sup> under Lazarus-Leander<sup>3</sup>.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Can find no references to this person??? eds.

<sup>2</sup>Dictionary of Christian Biography by Sir William Smith and Henry Wace. London: J. Murray, 1877. 4 vols. eds.

<sup>3</sup>In Volume 3—but has since disappeared. WG/eds.



# But then...

What about  
enclosures and  
attachments?

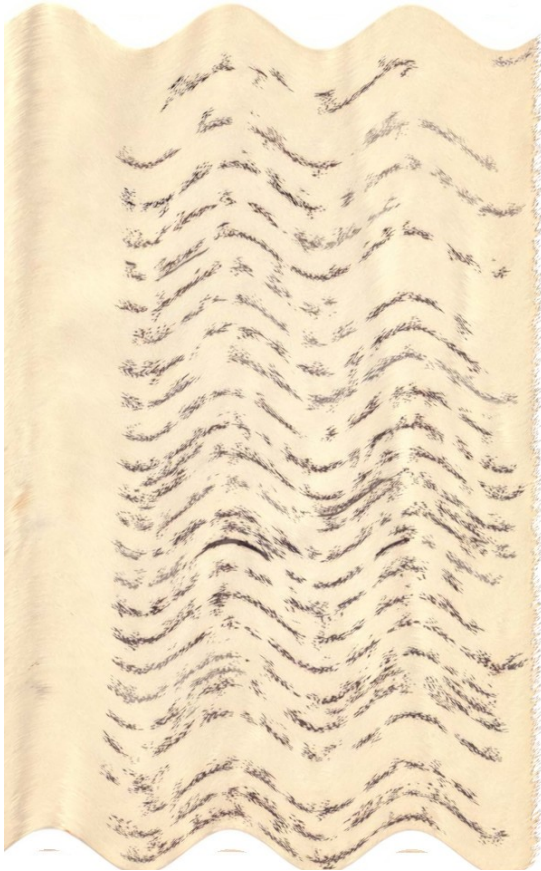
Grr. Nobody  
mentioned...



JJ </e> MH



# And then...



- Cocoon is out of date.
- eXist is out of date.
- Things get flaky.

JJ </e> MH



# So we rewrite...

- Cocoon 2.1.
- eXist 1.4.



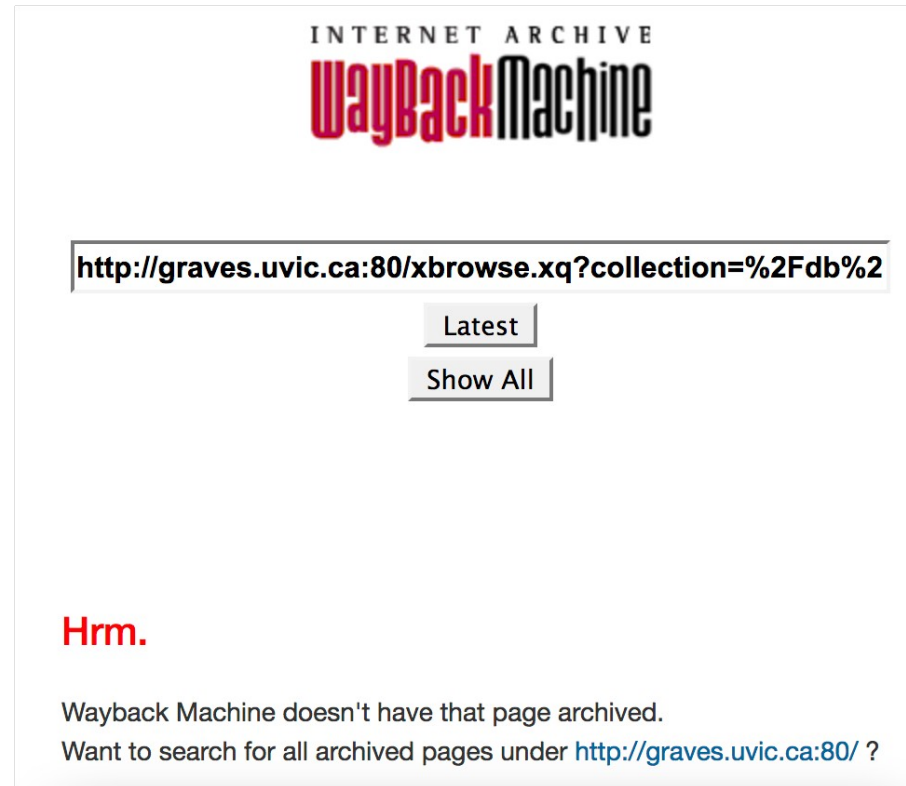


# So we rewrite...

- Cocoon 2.1.
- eXist 1.4.
- Spot the error.



# And then...



JJ </e> MH



# Query string nightmare!

`http://graves.uvic.ca/  
xbrowse.xq;jsessionid=926A43  
8A2B364B4B92488B9AC00AB013?  
query_stored=true&collection  
=/db/graves/  
entries&type=diaryentry&n=19  
35-02-22&start=1`

JJ </e> MH



Sigh.

JJ </e> MH



# Sigh.

- Start again.

JJ </e> MH



# Sigh.

- Start again.
- *Learn from mistakes.*

JJ </e> MH



# Sigh.

- Start again.
- *Learn from mistakes.*
- *Do it properly.*

JJ </e> MH



# Doing it properly

- Data: all TEI P5, version-controlled.
- Site: all HTML5 + JavaScript + CSS.
- URLs: all simple, no query strings.
- ....





# It works!

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